

STATE NEWS BRIEFLY TOLD

Latest Happenings Gleaned From All Over the State.

LIVE NOTES AND COMMENTS

Falling into a reloader at the Lehigh Coal & Navigation Company's blasto storage plant, Adam Schuls, of Lansford, was crushed to death.

Voters of Steelton will be asked to approve an eighty thousand dollar loan this Summer. The loan is for paved streets, motor fire apparatus and garbage collection.

An increase of five per cent. in wages has been granted to Delaware & Hudson freight clerks, foremen, delivery men, station agents, baggage men, and messengers.

W. W. Ingraham, aged twenty-seven, a civil engineer employed by the Erie Railroad, slipped off a bridge at Columbus and was killed. Ingraham's home was in New York.

A receptacle containing polish exploded on a stove Mrs. Martin McAndrews, of Mt. Carmel, was cleaning at her home and burned her probably fatally.

O. E. B. Malehorn has been elected chief of the Steelton fire department, succeeding John Shupp. G. F. Framer and John T. Brosey have been chosen as assistant chiefs.

Without regaining consciousness, Mrs. Margaret Corbett, of Carlisle, who was burned when her clothing caught fire as she was preparing dinner, died in the Todd Hospital. She was sixty-seven years old.

C. M. Sanner and Grover Kessler, workmen employed in a tannery at Confluence, were placed in quarantine, suffering from anthrax, said to have been contracted while handling skins which came from China.

The State Threshermen's Association adopted resolutions pledging support to the State Highway Department in enforcement of the traction engine law. H. H. Brubaker, of Rohrerstown, was elected president.

Suit has been entered in Dauphin County Court by J. L. Freedman against Miss Bertha P. Roth for recovery of an engagement ring. Freedman, who is a salesman, alleges that she returned Miss Roth's ring when the engagement was ended, but she failed to send back his ring.

Mrs. Elizabeth Halek, forty-two years old, of South Bethlehem, while crossing the Linden Street grade crossing of the Philadelphia & Reading Railway, on her way to visit her son, was struck and instantly killed by a train. The body was discovered some time afterward.

State beekeepers will have their annual convention in Lancaster March 3 and 4 and discuss legislation which will be asked to rid the apiaries of foreign diseases. The honey industry of the State is estimated by State Zoologist Surface to be worth a million dollars a year.

Fifteen miners were killed and fifty-three injured in the Tenth Bituminous District, including Blair and Cambria Counties, last year, according to the report of Mine Inspector Joseph Williams, of Altoona. One man out of every 264 employed in and around the mines met with a fatal accident, and one out of every 103 was hurt. Three million six hundred and thirty-eight thousand six hundred and thirty tons of coal were produced.

Mrs. David Faulkner, aged twenty-four, and her three small children were burned to death and four other persons were badly hurt when fire destroyed the Faulkner home at DuBois. The woman's husband and his sister-in-law, Mrs. Bertha Faulkner, aged twenty-two, were badly burned, and their condition is critical. The fire was caused by the explosion of a can of kerosene oil which Mrs. Faulkner was using in an attempt to hurry a fire.

To better carry on soil improvement work throughout the Eastern and New England States, an Eastern office of the Soil Improvement Committee of the National Fertilizer Association has been opened at 1428 Munsey Building, Baltimore, Md. The main office of the committee is at Chicago. Melvin Ryder, assistant editorial manager, has been placed temporarily in charge.

The work of the committee includes lecture and demonstration work, the preparation and distribution of bulletins, and co-operation with agencies including government, state, county and commercial, which have for their object the advancement of agriculture. Prof. Henry G. Bell, chief agronomist, was formerly professor of agronomy and manager of farms, University of Maine. The greater part of his time will be given to work throughout the East and New England. Clyde A. Waugh is manager of the editorial department.

In starting a fire to thaw a frozen pipe, the boy of John Morris, in Altoona, was set ablaze and the fire communicated to three other houses. Five families, comprising a total of thirty people, were burned out. The loss was \$5000.

Bitten on the right wrist by a rat, Rebecca Sullivan, aged nine, of Altoona, had the wound cauterized at a hospital. She attempted to pass from one room to another at her home when the rodent attacked her.

7,000,000 TREES FOR REFORESTRY

Over 13,000,000 Seedling Trees Are in the State Nurseries—Experiment in Foreign Plants.

Harrisburg.—Officials of the State Forestry Department estimated that over 7,000,000 young trees, about half of the number in the State's twenty-four tree nurseries, would be used for reforestation this year, forming the most extended program of the kind ever undertaken by the Commonwealth. The bulk of these trees will be planted on State forestry reservations and on new auxiliary reserves, and a large portion will be given free to persons desiring to use them for reforesting. The free distribution will not be for ornamental or shade planting, but only for development of wooded areas.

Over 13,000,000 seedling trees are in the State nurseries, and of those to be distributed this year 4,750,000 are two-year-old white pine, 800,000 Norway spruce, with pitch pine, sugar maple, Scotch pine, honey locust and other native trees.

The State also is experimenting with Japanese larch and other foreign trees, with a view to utilizing them in reforesting. When the trees available for this year's planting are set out, over 25,000,000 trees will have been used in reforesting in this State.

Penna. Farmers Raise More Hogs. Pennsylvania is raising more hogs and potatoes, according to the statisticians of the State Department of Agriculture, who note from county reports that there is a big demand for more seed potatoes and that a bigger acreage than known for many years is being outlined for the tubers, in spite of the loss sustained last year. There are signs in every county of an increased acreage, says a bulletin of the department, and farmers no longer are confining themselves to exchanging with neighbors they are out to buy for seed.

In regard to the hogs, the department bulletin says that thirty-five counties of the State now have more hogs than at this time last year. Monroe and Sullivan having six per cent. more; Chester, York, Snyder and Clinton, five per cent.; and Blair, Centre, Armstrong, Carbon, Clarion, Huntingdon and Lancaster, four per cent. increase. The only counties showing a marked decrease were Montgomery, Juniata, Erie, McKean, Venango, Susquehanna, Fulton and Montour.

Schuykill county got the best prices for its pigs last year, \$15 being reported, while Philadelphia reported \$14.70. Berks got an average of \$12.90, and Allegheny, Somerset and Clearfield an average of ten cents less. In Franklin and Greene, only \$9 was the price obtained, with \$9.50 in Indiana, \$9.85 in Crawford and \$9.70 in Cumberland.

Intoxication No Ground For Clemency. Lieutenant Governor Frank B. McClain, chairman of the State Board of Pardons, declared that plea that a person was drunk at the time he committed the offense would have no weight with him. This statement followed recommendations for mercy by counsel for several applicants, on the ground that the men had been intoxicated at the time of the crime.

"There are entirely too many pleas of that kind," said Mr. McClain, "and I absolutely refuse in this case, or in any other, to consider that plea." Counsel for Arden Lozier, of Warren county, just had made a plea for clemency for his client on the ground of intoxication.

State Society To Action. Heads of the departments of the State Government, who compose the Executive Committee of the Pennsylvania State Society, held their first monthly meeting for discussion of matters pertaining to the State Government and were addressed by Governor Brumbaugh, who praised the objects of the society and urged that the meetings be used to develop co-operation between the departments and as a clearing house for ideas, and that efforts be made to avoid "lost motion" and duplication in administration.

Staff Officers Of Guard. By direction of the Governor, Adjutant General Stewart announced the re-appointment of the following staff officers:

Colonel Horace L. Haldeman, commissary general of subsistence; Col. Harry C. Trexler, quartermaster general; and Colonel H. S. Williams, chief of artillery.

George N. Detrich, Hazleton, was appointed first lieutenant and assigned to Company G, Ninth Infantry. Hazleton, and Captain Paul V. Heffner, Company F, Eighth Infantry, Huntingdon, was placed on the supernumerary list.

Elk Distributed By State. The State Game Commission announced that ninety-seven elk had been brought from the Yellowstone Park to be placed in the State's game preserves. Twenty-five of the elk were placed on the preserve in Potter County, twenty-four in Cameron County, twenty-five in Carbon County and ten on the line between Forest and Warren Counties. Seven have been shipped to Altoona to be placed with six elk donated and will be distributed by the Blair County sportsmen. The remaining six have been added to the herd in Monroe County.

Fine To Take Matches Into Powder Plants. The State Industrial Board announced a ruling making it a misdemeanor for any one to carry matches into a powder plant. It is said that the regulation that matches and lighters should not be taken into such plants has been violated. The new ruling makes the penalty a fine of not over \$100 or not over a month in prison or both.

DECIDED STAND TAKEN BY LANSING

No Compromise in the Armed Ship Controversy.

BERNSTORFF SEES LANSING

German Ambassador Afterward Notifies His Government Of Stand Taken By United States As Outcome Of Latest Lusitania Note.

Washington.—The United States, in its submarine controversy with Germany, will accept nothing short of a full and complete agreement covering all the points for which it has contended as to assurances that the warfare in the future will be conducted in accordance with the established principles of international law.

In announcing that fact Secretary Lansing let it be known that the State Department considers Germany's declaration of its intention to sink without warning after February 29 all armed merchant ships of the Entente as to be inconsistent with the assurances previously given this Government by the Berlin Foreign Office.

The tentative communication designed to end the Lusitania case, still in the possession of Secretary Lansing, will not be formally accepted until such assurances regarding the future are given, although the communication is so far as it relates to the Lusitania itself is acceptable.

Holds Up Ancona Settlement. State Department officials also consider that the Austro-Hungarian memorandum regarding armed ships is not in accord with the assurances given by the Government in the negotiations over the sinking of the Italian steamship Ancona. Consequently final settlement of the Ancona case, once postponed because of the doubt regarding the circumstances of the sinking of the British steamship Persia, probably will be withheld until Austria gives similar assurances to those now requested from Germany.

The views of the United States were explained in detail by Secretary Lansing to Count von Bernstorff, the German Ambassador. The Ambassador was informed, it was indicated at the State Department, that the United States desires the German declaration regarding armed merchant ships to be modified.

It was declared at the department that at no time had suggestions been made to the German Government which would have led it to issue its latest memorandum. This answered statement made by German officials that the American memorandum to the Entente Allies suggesting a modus vivendi for the disarmament of merchant ships was the direct cause of Germany issuing her declaration. From other sources outside the department came the information that the department had been advised informally of the German intentions in this respect.

Considering Britain's Assurances. The State Department is carefully viewing from various angles the assurances given in the early days of the war by Great Britain to the effect that the guns on her merchant ships would be used only for defensive purposes. It was admitted that the department has in its possession information charging that since the assurances were given certain British merchantmen have used their armament for offensive attacks on German submarines. The information came through German sources and is not regarded as being conclusive evidence.

Officials are now awaiting the receipt of what Germany alleges to be a copy of secret instructions given by the British Government to the commanders of merchant ships. This document and others appended to the text of the German declaration have been mailed from Berlin.

BANDITS KILL 20 RANGERS. Maltreat All Females Over 10 Years, El Paso News.

El Paso, Texas.—Twenty Mexican rangers in the State of Durango were killed by a band of 400 bandits that appeared at Rancho San Juan February 1, according to a messenger that reached here bearing messages from an American to local mining men.

The messenger stated that the bandits marched to the Siero Prieto district and were not molested by small Carranza forces at Santa Barbara and Parral.

These advices reported that each ranch en route was looted and females over 10 years old were maltreated, their male relatives being forced witnesses.

ASKS ARMY OF 250,000. Hoke Smith Presents Bill For Six-Year Enlistment.

Washington.—Increase of the Regular Army to 250,000 men was provided in a bill introduced in the Senate by Senator Hoke Smith, of Georgia. It was immediately referred to the Senate Military Affairs Committee, now engaged in redrafting the Chamberlains omnibus army bill. The term of enlistment would be six years, two years with the colors and four years in the reserve.

WANTS MILITIA AVIATORS. West Virginia Adjutant-General Asks For Volunteers.

Charleston, W. Va.—Adjutant-General Bond has mailed a circular letter to every militia command in West Virginia asking for a volunteer to take up the study of aviation. One man from the West Virginia National Guard will be given 60 days of training in this branch of the service under the direction of an aeroplane concern, it was announced.



ALLIES' WITHIN THEIR RIGHTS WILSON NOW CUT FOR NOMINATION

Position Taken by U. S. Under International Law. GIVES PERMISSION TO USE HIS NAME IN OHIO PRIMARY.

ARMING MERCHANT SHIPS NOT TO ENTER ANY CONTEST

Germany, However, Will Not Disregard Assurances Which Have Been Given To The American Government.

Washington.—The United States, it is said on high authority at the State Department, concedes that the Entente Allies are within their rights under prevailing international law in arming merchant ships for defensive purposes, no matter what conditions exist on the seas. Consequently it is admitted that should the Allies decline to adopt the American suggestion to disarm merchantmen, founded primarily upon a desire to save the lives of innocent non-combatants, this government cannot announce its approval of the intentions of the Teutonic powers to torpedo without warning after February 29, all armed vessels, although various high officials are convinced that the position of Germany and Austria is justified.

State Department officials now are engaged in trying to determine just what will happen when the commanders of German and Austrian submarines begin to put their new instructions into effect. It is said, too, that the United States in the near future, may make some inquiries as to how the Central Powers intend to determine whether merchantmen encountered by their submarines are armed, and for that reason liners in service between the United States and Western Europe would not be attacked without warning, even if they have defensive armament aboard.

Teutonic officials were inclined to believe that such an issue would not arise as Great Britain has agreed that its ships entering American waters shall not be armed. In both diplomatic and official circles doubt even was expressed that the new policy would in the slightest way affect conditions in the Atlantic, although it was admitted that should the Italian government persist in arming its merchantmen difficulty might arise in the Mediterranean.

FARM-LOAN BANKS.

Administration Bill Favorably Reported To The Senate.

Washington.—The administration's bill to establish a system of land banks, drafted by a joint congressional committee, was favorably reported to the Senate, but with radical alterations by the Banking and Currency Committee. The joint proposal for a board of five commissioners to control the system was discarded by the committee in favor of control by a treasury department bureau, to be known as the Federal Farm Loan Bureau, under the general supervision of a federal farm loan board, the latter consisting of the secretary of the treasury and four presidential appointees.

EDITOR GETS LIFE SENTENCE.

Killed Editor Of A Competing Paper In a Dispute.

Purvis, Miss.—Dr. Samuel E. Rees, editor of a weekly newspaper here, was found guilty of the murder of Wiley A. Blackburn, editor of a competing paper, last October and was sentenced to life imprisonment. Blackburn was killed in the courthouse after a dispute with Rees over bids for printing.

THE BULLDOG OF THE NAVY.

The Battleship Oregon Placed On The Retired List.

Vallejo, Cal.—The battleship Oregon, Bulldog of the Navy, went on the retired list when she was turned over, without formality, to the Naval Militia of California at the Mare Island Navy Yard. She gained fame by a cruise around Cape Horn which ended in the battle of Santiago July 3, 1898.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE MAINE.

Sailors' Graves Decorated and the Cuban Charge Speaks.

Washington.—The eighteenth anniversary of the destruction of the battleship Maine in Havana harbor was observed here Tuesday with the usual annual exercises at Arlington Cemetery, which include placing floral decorations on the graves of the sailors who went down with the vessel. Among the speakers was Dr. Joaquin R. Torralba, the Cuban charge.

CHURCH BELL STOLEN.

Taken In Daylight Under Noses Of Lookers-On.

Hopkinsville, Ky.—The church bell of Highland Chapel was stolen Saturday in daylight, with several people looking on. The bell was lying on the ground while a new platform to hold it was being built. Two well-dressed men in a buggy stopped at the gate, looked it over and finally loaded it into the vehicle and drove off.

BELGIUM ASSURED OF ALLIES' FAITH

New Treaty Guaranteeing Independence and Indemnity.

THE FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Decision Of the Entente Allies Conveyed To the Belgian Foreign Office By Ministers Representing All the Allies.

Havre.—The allied powers signatory to the treaty guaranteeing the independence and neutrality of Belgium have decided to renew the agreement not to use hostilities until the political and economic independence of Belgium is re-established and the nation is indemnified for the damages suffered.

This decision was communicated to the Belgian Foreign Office by the ministers representing the Entente Allies.

Russian Minister Spokesman. The Russian Minister acted as spokesman, addressing the Belgian Minister for Foreign Affairs as follows:

"The allied powers signatory to the treaties guaranteeing the independence and neutrality of Belgium have decided to renew today by solemn act the agreements made regarding your country, which has been heretofore faithful to its international obligations. Consequently we, the Ministers of France, Great Britain and Russia, duly authorized by our Governments, have the honor to make the following declaration:

"The allied and guaranteeing powers declare that when the moment comes the Belgian Government will be called upon to take part in peace negotiations, and they will not put an end to hostilities without Belgium having re-established its political and economic independence and having been amply indemnified for damages suffered. They will lend their aid to Belgium in order to assure its financial and commercial restoration."

Resolved To Fight On. "I am inclosing to you a letter the occasion of which I dare say will be quite obvious. Friends in Ohio have called my attention to Section 454 of the General Code of Ohio, as amended in 1914, with regard to primary elections, and have requested that I indicate my willingness to have my name used."

"I accordingly take the liberty of sending you the inclosed letter as formal permission under the statute."

The letter the President inclosed was as follows:

"While I am entirely unwilling to enter into any contest for the Presidential nomination of the Democratic party, I am willing to permit the use of my name that the Democrats in Ohio may make known their preference in regard to that nomination."

In order, therefore, to satisfy the technical requirements of the statutes of the State of Ohio, I hereby consent to the use of my name as a candidate for the Presidency by any candidate who seeks to be elected a delegate to the National Democratic Convention which is to assemble in June next."

The President takes the position that the voters will have to determine whether he will make the race for the Presidency in 1916 as the Democratic candidate. In a letter written to A. Mitchell Palmer, then a representative from Pennsylvania, before his inauguration, Mr. Wilson made it plain that he would only be a candidate again if the Democratic voters desired it.

NEUTRALITY PLEDGED IN 1831.

By the treaty of London, signed November 15, 1831, the neutrality of Belgium was guaranteed by Austria, Russia, Great Britain and Prussia.

In 1839 another treaty was signed, which was subscribed to also by France, providing: "Belgium shall form an independent and perpetually neutral state. It shall be bound to observe such neutrality toward all other states."

It has been reported unofficially on several occasions recently that Germany desired to conclude a separate peace with Belgium, restoring the occupied territory and paying an indemnity in return for certain commercial advantages. Official denial of these reports, however, was made last week by the Belgian legation at London. In connection with these reports significance was attached to the appointment on February 4 of Earl Curzon and Gen. Sir Douglas Haig, commander of the British forces on the Continent, to visit King Albert of Belgium on a special mission, the nature of which was not disclosed.

G. T. MARYE RESIGNS.

Ambassador To Russia May Be Succeeded By D. R. Francis.

Washington.—David R. Francis, of St. Louis, former Secretary of the Interior and former Governor of Missouri, is understood to be under serious consideration for appointment as Ambassador to Russia to succeed Geo. T. Marye. It is not known whether he will accept the post if it is offered to him. Mr. Marye's resignation has not yet been accepted, but it was stated at the State Department and White House that it undoubtedly would be.

40,000 TURKS AND 110 GUNS TAKEN

Russians Go Wild With Joy at Success at Erzerum.

FIERCE CATTLE REPORTED

More Than 40,000 Turks, 110 Guns and War Stores Are Reported Captured—Gaves Egypt and Persia.

Petrograd.—The greatest demonstration since the capture of Przemyśl occurred in Petrograd, following confirmation of reports of the capture of Erzerum.

Great crowds marched through the streets, waving the Russian colors and chanting hymns. Thousands attended the Divine services in the great Kazan Cathedral, while other thousands, standing outside in the snow, offered up prayers for the Grand Duke Nicholas, again the national hero.

From army headquarters Emperor Nicholas sent a message of congratulation to the Grand Duke.

Russian People Stirred. The conquest of Erzerum, the first important Russian victory since the retreat from the Carpathians began nearly a year ago, has stirred the Russian people to great depths of patriotism. The newspapers declared the Grand Duke's triumph only the prelude to greater victories that will carry the czar's armies sweeping back through Poland and Galicia before summer.

More than 40,000 Turkish soldiers and 110 guns were taken by the Russians, according to dispatches from Tiflis. In addition the Russians took quantities of military supplies. Attempts had been made to destroy these, but the Russians moved so rapidly in their final attacks that the Turks were unable to prevent much booty reaching the Russians.

The Turkish losses in the conflict that raged for five days about the forts guarding Erzerum are said to have been in the neighborhood of 25,000 killed and wounded.

Fierce Battle Reported.

Tiflis reports state that the battle was the fiercest that has ever been fought about a fortress in modern warfare. The Turks fought desperately, but one by one the forts were taken by the Russians, who charged with the bayonet through breaches made by their artillery.

Cepta Conquest Of Persia.

The capture of Erzerum means the collapse of all Turkish plans of conquest in Persia, military men here believe, and possibly will force the Turks to abandon their plans to invade Egypt.

Opens Asia Minor To Russians.

Paris.—The capture of Erzerum has placed Asia Minor at the mercy of the Russians, in the opinion of French military experts. The Russian victory at Erzerum is called the most important since the French success in Champagne last year.

JEFFERSON DAVIS HIGHWAY.

One From Memphis To New Orleans Is Proposed.

Memphis, Tenn.—Good roads enthusiasts from points along the east bank of the Mississippi river from Cairo to New Orleans will meet here Thursday and Friday to discuss routes for a proposed Jefferson Davis highway. It will extend from Memphis to New Orleans and to Bayou, Mississippi, the home of the president of the Confederacy. At Memphis the road would connect with the Memphis-Paducah highway, which in turn connects with the transcontinental highway passing through Kentucky.

INCREASED 3,000 PER CENT.

Darrel Of Violet Dye Bought For \$400 Is Sold For \$12,000.

Doston.—The shortage in dyestuffs and the demand by textile manufacturers for this product was pointed out by dealers who reported that a barrel of violet dye bought 14 months ago for \$400, had been sold here for \$12,000, an increase of 3,000 per cent.

IDEAL MAN DISCOVERED.

He Is Bradford M. Fullerton, Swimming Captain At Harvard.

Cambridge, Mass.—The ideal man has been discovered at Harvard, according to the specifications of the merchant tailors of the United States. He is Bradford M. Fullerton, swimming captain, from Spokane, Wash.

VON PAPAN DECORATED.

Former Attache In United States Honored By Kaiser.

Rome.—Swiss dispatches report that Kaiser Wilhelm has conferred the order of the Red Eagle upon Capt. Franz von Papan, formerly German Military Attache to the United States.

ANOTHER WORLD'S RECORD.

Aviator Smith Takes Three Passengers Up 9,600 Feet.

San Diego, Cal.—Aviator Floyd Smith, at the United States Aviation Field at North Island, established what is declared to be a world's altitude record for pilot and three passengers in a seaplane by reaching a height of 9,600 feet. Smith used a 130-horsepower hydroaeroplane, and was up two hours and ten minutes.